The Government have also recently issued orders for grant of special concessions to owners of pumping installations. These orders have been issued as instructions to all officers of the Revenue and Public Works Departments and the Board's Standing Order on the subject will be amended in due course.

(b) & (c) With reference to these orders no case has so far been reported for the orders of Government.

Introduction of the warping mill in Kurnool district.

* 342 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state, with reference to the statement made by the Special Officer for Cottage Industries at page 4 of his report *re* the Kurnool district, that there are no warping mills anywhere in the district to help the weaver in the preliminary processes—

(a) whether the Government have investigated the question of introducing the warping mill into the district through their departmental agency; and

(b) whether any arrangements have been made or are proposed to be made to demonstrate the utility of the warping mill to the weaving population in the district?

A.—(a) & (b) Warping mills are costly and bulky appliances suitable for capitalists who employ groups of weavers. These mills are not at present recommended by the Industries Department as a separate unit since a combined warping and sizing machine offers greater advantages to the weavers. A demonstration of this combined type of machine has already been given at select centres in the Ceded districts through the agency of the peripatetic weaving parties.

Improvements to the blanket industry in Kurnool district.

* 343 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state, with reference to the statement made by the Special Officer for Cottage Industries at page 12 of his report *re* Kurnool district, that the blanket or woollen rugs industry is capable of improvement in many respects, what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken—

(a) to improve the breed of sheep;

(b) to investigate into improved methods of carding;

(c) to demonstrate to the people the superiority of the charka over the takli for purposes of spinning wool; and

(d) to introduce the fly-shuttle to the weavers outside the Siddapuram settlement?

A.—(a) The Registrar of Co-operative Societies is examining the feasibility of accredited co-operative societies taking a few good breeding rams from the Agricultural Department and, if possible, of organizing new co-operative societies for sheep breeding in the district.

(b) It has not yet been found possible to initiate experiments in connexion with the evolution of a suitable hand-driven carding machine.

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(c) Neither the takli nor the charka can be regarded as a very efficient instrument for the spinning of wool. The Department of Industries is therefore considering the question of introducing small size power wool spinning plants which could suitably be worked by a group of spinners. Pending, however, the demonstration and popularisation of such domestic plants, the attention of the department is being directed to the evolution of a suitable hand-driven carding machine, with a view to replacing the present laborious method of bowing and also securing a better quality of sliver for the cottage spinners. In these circumstances, no useful purpose would be served by arranging for a departmental demonstration of the charka.

(d) Government understand that the Siddapuram settlement employs at present only two-fold or twisted yarn for weaving cumblies on the fly-shuttle loom, as single yarns of the quality obtainable at present do not stand the strain of the fly-shuttle slay. The employment of double yarns does not, however, afford the best solution as the use of such yarns would considerably enhance the price of the woven article. Before, therefore, the fly-shuttle can be introduced amongst the cumbly weavers with advantage, it is necessary to secure for them supplies of single yarns of a quality which would permit of fly-shuttle weaving. The Department of Industries is accordingly at present considering the question of introducing small size spinning plants which would yield woollen yarns of a quality suitable for the fly-shuttle loom. After success has been attained in this direction, the necessary measures will be taken with a view to the introduction of the fly-shuttle among the cumbly weavers.

[For further list of starred question, vide page 497 infra.]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Land Assignment

Grant of darkhast lands to non-combatant ex-military men.

344 *Q.*—Subadar-Major S. A. NANJAPPA Bahadur: With reference to my speech on the 2nd March 1928 (page 257, Volume XL, Proceedings of the Madras Legislative Council), will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have considered the desirability of granting at least five acres of land on darkhast to non-combatant ex-military men who have served overseas during the great war of 1914—18 and are in possession of war medals?

A.—In April 1921 the Government empowered Collectors to authorize the assignments of lands to officers and men who actually served in the Great War, whether as combatants or as non-combatants in preference to other claimants. The concession was limited to three years and to a single grant not exceeding five acres of wet or